

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Thursday, October 26, 2016 Contact:** Tim Tomes, 502.644.8979, tim.tomes@suppliesoverseas.org

**SAFAI COFFEE SENDS MEDICAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT**

**TO ASSIST COFFEE FARMERS IN HONDURAS**

**Honduras Container Loading**

**Thursday, October 27, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Supplies Over Seas**

**1500 Arlington Ave (off of Spring Street in the Butchertown Neighborhood**

**Louisville, KY –** A small medical clinic in the coffee bean growing region of Honduras that is in great need of medical supplies and equipment will receive a 40-foot ocean-going shipping container filled with life-saving medical supplies and equipment thanks to the **Safai Foundation**, a humanitarian aid arm of Safai Coffee in partnership with **Supplies Over Seas** (SOS). The container will loaded at the Supplies Over Seas warehouse located at 1500 Arlington Avenue on **Thursday, October 27 from 9 am – 11:30 am.**

The supplies will be sent to the **Simon Contreras Medical Clinic in Marcala, Honduras.** Additional support for this project has come from **SYSCO Guest Supplies LLC, Café Organico Marcala S.A. de C.V. (COMSA), Royal Coffee** (New York)as well as the **patrons and staff of Safai Coffee.**

Lagrange, KY based Safai Coffee owner **Mike Safai** travels to coffee growing regions around the world and builds direct relationships with coffee farmers. On a recent coffee buying trip to Honduras, Mike visited the local clinic, Simon Contreras, and saw first-hand the obstacles facing the people of Marcala. There are little to no basic medical supplies, and although Simon Contreras services 90,000 people there are only two beds in their Emergency Room. While the staff utilizes all the means at their disposal, they simply do not have the medical supplies and equipment necessary to run a facility that caters to so many.

When Safai saw the conditions of the medical clinic, he told his wife Medora and together they made a decision to do what they could to improve the healthcare conditions for the coffee farmers that are so vital to their business.

The 40-foot ocean going container will hold more than **18,500 pounds** of medical supplies and equipment including: 20 hospital beds; 2 labor & delivery beds; 4 infant warmers; 4 bassinettes; 4 exam tables; 2 new mother chairs; vital signs monitors; nebulizers; breast pumps; fetal monitors; exam lights; otoscopes, oxygen concentrators and pallets of medical supplies. Supplies Over Seas has coordinated the details of shipping the supplies to Honduras.

"We are so proud to have completed this project with the direct efforts of our corporate partners as well as many individuals right here at home. Our passion for assisting our coffee farming families and their communities has fueled our success," said **Mike Safai.**

**Melissa Mershon**, Supplies Over Seas President & CEO said, “Because regional hospitals donate to Supplies Over Seas when they upgrade equipment in their hospitals, like hospital beds, we have these items to share with communities in need.”

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**About Supplies Over Seas:** Supplies Over Seas (SOS) is a Louisville based 501(c) 3 nonprofit that partners with hospitals and other medical institutions to recover surplus medical supplies and used equipment that would otherwise go into our landfills. The surplus is then redistributed to medically impoverished communities worldwide. In 2015, SOS received 153 tons of surplus medical supplies and equipment that would have otherwise gone into a landfill. SOS is one of only 15 medical surplus recovery organizations across the U.S. and the only such organization serving Kentucky, Southern Indiana and Southern Ohio. For more information call 502-736-6360 or visit: [www.suppliesoverseas.org](http://www.suppliesoverseas.org).

**About Safai Coffee**

Founded in 1998 by Mike and Medora Safai as a small store in Stonefield Square Shopping Center in Louisville, today over 120,000 of Safai Coffee are brewed every day. Safai Enterprises uses 100% Specialty Grade Arabica coffees grown and shipped from 11 countries around the world. Mike Safai is a Master Roaster who visit coffee farms to build direct relationship with coffee farmers. These mutual relationship help Mike understand the growing conditions and the farmer understand Mike’s preferred coffee characteristics.

For more information visit: [www.safaicoffee.com](http://www.safaicoffee.com)

**About Safai Arabica Farm Assistance Initiative (Safai Foundation)**

The Safai Foundation is actively seeking ways to help farms in various coffee growing areas to overcome the challenges that thwart farmer’s efforts to continue farming as a livelihood. Their commitment is to help coffee farms convert rust-affected shrubs to tolerant species. As plantings mature over three years, the Safai Foundation supplements income lost by coffee farmers. This is not “farm aid,’ in fact it’s much more grassroots. Fix the farm and the farmer has his life back. The farmer can retain the hundreds of years of his farm’s heritage and perpetuate a legacy for communities around the farm for perhaps another hundred years.

For more information visit: [www.safaicoffee.com](http://www.safaicoffee.com)